

March 23  
W. S. Stamp Day  
All Over Tennessee

# THE CHATTANOOGA NEWS

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## GERMAN LOSSES VERY LARGE

### ARTILLERY FIRE MOST VIOLENT ENDURED IN WAR

Under Terrific Impact, However, British Bore Up Well, Correspondent Declares.

### POSTS DRENCHED BY GAS

600,000 Germans Took Part in Offensive.

No Fewer Than Six Divisions Employed South of St. Quentin.

London, March 23.—The artillery preparation of the Germans in the drive against the British lines which is now in progress is described by those who took part in it as the most violent they ever endured, according to the Daily Mail's correspondent on the British front. "The thing that stands out as characteristic of the fighting up to the present," says the correspondent, "is that we did so well under the terrific impact."

Continuing, the correspondent says: "Upon one corps front there was a gun every fifteen yards. The strength of the mortars which the enemy brought up in such great numbers sent over such an overwhelming weight of iron and high explosives that in most parts of the front the firing ceased to be an obstacle and trenching were obliterated. At the same time all of our known battery positions were drenched by gas, but their gas shells failed to reach all of our batteries, nor did they succeed anywhere in breaking down our wire. At one point where the Germans found our wire unbroken they set to work with scissors until they had made under our machine gun fire. Wore New Uniforms.

"A curious fact reported by our army was that the Germans composing the special assault divisions wore new uniforms. Our relaying corps did valuable work despite adverse weather conditions. One of our men in the early morning reconnaissance spotted several thousand Germans moving westward south of Bullecourt and reported 3,000 of the enemy in a sunken road in the area waiting to advance."

"Few enemy machines were seen and they merely flew low, peppering our trenches with their machine guns. This is the first battle where British gunners had to serve their guns in gas masks and it was a difficult task. Fortunately, practices with masks have been taking place frequently for an hour daily."

"I found every one I saw pretty confident. At first they did have a hard job to meet the masses of Germans, who came in denser formation than ever before, yet all reports show that they fought magnificently. For example, south of St. Quentin, one of our divisions had to bear up against the repeated assaults of no fewer than six German divisions, possibly 90,000 men. Only when the assaults ceased with darkness did our troops withdraw to strong positions behind the canal system between St. Quentin and the Oise."

Advantage in Positions. "It is estimated that altogether nearly 600,000 Germans participated in the offensive. The enemy fought well and his gunners did good service. The quickness with which the guns were brought forward into No Man's Land after the infantry had advanced was marked. He had in many places the advantage over us in positions and he was at all points largely superior in numbers."

### Statement Follows.

The statement follows: "Heavy fighting continued until late hours last night on the whole battle front. During the afternoon powerful hostile attacks delivered with great weight of infantry and artillery, broke through our defensive system west of St. Quentin. Our troops on this part of the battle front are falling back in good order across the devastated area to prepared positions further west."

"Our troops on the northern portion of the battle front are holding their positions. Very heavy fighting with fresh hostile forces is in progress."

For the first time in the war on the western front since the opposing armies established themselves in their trench systems the defensive zone has been broken through. In other great attacks, the British, French and Germans have been able to bend back the line, but not to strike through the zone of defense. Many military critics had reached the opinion that on account of the strength of the lines it would be impossible to break them until one side or the other had been worn down to such a point that it would be no longer able to man it strongly.

Unless the British are able to restore the situation by a counter-attack a withdrawal on a wide front may be necessary with open field warfare. The point at which the British line has been broken is near the southern end of the German attacking front, which extends from Arras to La Fere, fifteen miles below St. Quentin. Below this sector is the great area in the front where the line, approaching nearest to Paris, turns sharply to the east.

The German offensive has developed with almost unparalleled rapidity. One reason for this is indicated in Field Marshal Haig's reports showing that

## Powerful Hun Attacks Break Defenses West of St. Quentin

London, March 23.—Powerful enemy attacks delivered with great weight of infantry and artillery have broken through the British defensive system west of St. Quentin, the war office announces.

The British troops on the northern portion of the battle field are holding their positions.

The British west of St. Quentin are falling back in good order to positions further west. Very heavy fighting with fresh enemy forces is in progress.

The war office states that there are prepared positions behind the British, to which they are falling back.

### DASHING COUNTER-ATTACK DRIVES ENEMY BACK.

London, March 23.—The Germans forced their way into Mory, but a dashing counter-attack drove them out, Reuters' correspondent at British headquarters telegraphs. A large party was surrounded and probably was captured.

There is reason to believe fifty German divisions are flowing into the struggle, the correspondent states, and probably half as many more are in close reserve. Under the tremendous onslaught the British troops are falling back very slowly and in excellent order. At many places they are withdrawing voluntarily so as to maintain an unbroken front.

### WELL-ORDERED ORGANIZATION EVIDENT.

The scenes of action behind the battle front baffle description, but everywhere there is the same well-ordered organization and quiet confidence.

The weather is wonderfully fine, although the visibility is handicapped by local mists.

Mory is on the northern battle front, fifteen miles below Arras. It is about four miles back of the line held by the British before the Germans began their offensive.

The Germans this morning were pressing hard the British forces defending Hermies (about two and one-half miles back of the old line, in the region southwest of Cambrai).

Throughout the night the battle front extended southward, and it was reported this morning that the French army was now engaged.

### SLAUGHTER OF ENEMY APPALLING.

The most intense fighting appears to have been around Roisel and Trincourt. The slaughter in the enemy ranks was appalling.

Twelve times every available gun in the area was concentrated on solid massed bodies of enemy troops, while the airmen grew weary with emptying their machine gun drums and dropping their bombs into the dense gray crowds of troops and returning for more ammunition.

## LATEST WAR DISPATCHES

### ENEMY LOSES GREAT NUMBERS IN SYSTEM OF MASSED ATTACKS

Visibility Became Excellent Late in the Afternoon and Whole Battle Front Was Turned Into

a Veritable Hell With Artillery Action as Guns Cut Loose Their Freight of Death.

British Headquarters in France, March 23.—It was reported this morning that enemy infantry had pushed down across the Canal de la Somme and had driven forward against the positions to which the British had retired. Germany cavalry was seen advancing behind the infantry.

There was small doubt but that the attacking forces intended to make a supreme effort to rupture the British line in this sector. Certainly the Germans are putting all their available strength into the assault and fresh troops are constantly appearing.

The fighting yesterday was of the most sanguinary character and the enemy continued to lose great numbers of men through his system of massed attacks. That does not mean that the British have not suffered casualties. They necessarily have, but their losses are much smaller than those of their opponents.

The visibility became excellent late yesterday and the whole battle front was turned into a veritable hell with the artillery action as the unprecedented concentration of guns on both sides cut loose their freight of death.

The Germans this afternoon were pressing the attack hard on the British right flank, near Ham, while on the northern end of the battle field there has been desperate fighting since yesterday about Mory, which changed hands several times.

### 28 CASUALTIES REPORTED; FIVE OFFICERS INCLUDED

Lieut. E. R. Wheatley, Lieut. Foigl, Lieut.-Col. Wells, Capt. Gow, Lieut. Booth on List.

Washington, March 23.—Only twenty-eight names, five of them officers, were included in today's casualty list. Lieut. Jefferson Foigl was killed in action. Lieut. Eugene R. Wheatley died of accident. Lieut.-Col. William S. Wells died of "other causes." and Capt. Arthur S. Gow and Lieut. Arthur Booth were among the slightly wounded.

Today's list was divided as follows: Killed in action, 1; died of accident, 3; died of disease, 5; died of "other causes," 2; wounded severely, 2; wounded slightly, 12.

Killed in Action. Lieutenant—Jefferson Foigl. Died of Accident. Lieutenant—Eugene R. Wheatley. Bugler—James D. Galladay. Private—Herbert J. Tucker. Died of Disease.

Corporal—Reynold A. Braeder.

### VIENNA CLAIMS GREAT SUCCESS WON IN WEST

Berlin War Office Announces Capture of 10,000 Prisoners by Crown Prince.

Vienna, March 23.—(British admiralty per wireless press.)—The war office announces that a great success has been won in the west.

Berlin, March 23.—(British admiralty per wireless press.)—The captures so far reported by the army group of Crown Prince Rupprecht are 15,000 prisoners and 250 guns; by the army group of the German crown prince, 10,000 prisoners, 150 guns and 300 machine guns.

The statement reads: "Artillery battles continue between the Lys and LaBasse canal, on both sides of Rheims, before Verdun and in Lorraine."

### AMERICANS VICTORS Two Fliers From U. S. Bring Down German Airships.

Washington, March 23.—Two American fliers are named in an official dispatch from France today as bringing down German airships. Lieut. Lerner downed a German opponent in the Champagne region and Corp. Rayles brought down one near Courceton.

Showers, Says Billy 'Possum.

The Kaiser's got things twisted; he thinks it's Christmas day, and his dinner's getting frigid in some Paris (France) cafe, but by the time he's ready to sit him down to eat, he'll find it's meatless Christmas and the signal's to retreat.

The weather? Showers tonight; Sunday fair and warmer.

## SHELLS FROM LONG RANGE ENEMY GUNS REACH PARIS

Ten Persons Killed, Fifteen Wounded by Missiles of 240 Millimetres Fired by German Artillery on Western Front, Air Forces Co-Operating—Counter-Attack to Be Made.

Paris, March 23.—The Germans have been firing on Paris with long-range guns.

Since 8 o'clock this morning shells of 240 millimetres have been reaching the capital and suburbs at intervals of a quarter of an hour, killing about ten persons and wounding about fifteen. The shortest distance from Paris to the front is over 100 kilometres (52 miles.)

The announcement that Paris was being bombarded was made officially this afternoon.

Measures for counter-attacking the enemy's cannon are under execution.

The official announcement that Paris is being bombarded must remain unexplained until further details have been received.

The caliber of the shells reaching Paris (240 millimetres) is equivalent to about 9½ inches. The heavy German siege pieces fire 17-inch shells.

Paris had been under bombardment for about eight hours at the time the foregoing dispatch was filed, 4 p.m.

### Dispersed in Woevre.

The communication follows: "An intermittent bombardment of considerable violence was carried out against our front lines and positions in the rear north of the Chemin des Dames, in the region of Rheims and in Lorraine. An enemy raid east of Loivre was without success. There were patrol encounters north of hill 344 (Verdun front)."

"In the Woevre in the region of Blemeray the Germans made an attack which was dispersed by the French fire. They suffered considerable losses and left prisoners in our hands."

"Elsewhere there is nothing to report."

### GIVE AIR RAID ALARM.

Paris, March 23, 9 a.m.—An air raid alarm has just been given.

An official statement issued here today says several airplanes attacked Paris last night, dropping a number of bombs. There were some casualties.

### OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

The following official announcement was given out: "At 8:20 o'clock this morning a few airplanes, flying at a very high altitude, succeeded in crossing the lines and attacking Paris. They were immediately pursued by aviators of the entrenched camps of Paris, as well as by those at the front."

"The dropping of bombs at several points has been reported. There are several victims. A later announcement will give further details of the raid."

### Sing "Marseillaise" in Cellars.

President Poincare, Premier Clemenceau, the prefect of police and other officials visited the places at which bombs were dropped while the raid was still in progress. Going to a school in whose cellars six hundred pupils were installed, they were greeted with the "Marseillaise." The president and premier responded with a cheer for France.

## BRITISH TROOPS FALLING BACK TO PREPARED POSTS

Unsound Theory to Attempt to Hold Front Line in Face of Great Attack.

### ORGANIZE RESISTANCE

Warning Proves True as to Quantity of Gas Shells.

Germans Depend on Tremendous Artillery Bombardment and Massed Troops.

British Army Headquarters in France, March 23, 11 a.m.—(By the Associated Press.)—The British, gallantly fighting, are still presenting a solid front to the fiercely attacking Germans, although the defensive troops have withdrawn their lines in certain places for strategic reasons. All day yesterday and much of last night the conflict continued to rage with increasing violence, as fresh German divisions were hurled into the fray in an attempt to smash through the British defenses.

More intense fighting is expected. With Kaleidoscopic Rapidity. The operation is so vast and is changing with such kaleidoscopic rapidity as the line surges backward and forward that it is impossible to visualize the scene sufficiently to give a connected and accurate account of it at present.

Forty-nine German divisions have been identified thus far on the battle front and prisoners have been taken from eighteen of them. Some estimates place the number of German divisions engaged as high as ninety, but it is impossible to say whether this is accurate.

British Army Headquarters in France, Friday, March 22.—(By the Associated Press.)—British troops between the Scarpe and the Oise have fallen back in places, but the British generals had foreseen this eventually and made preparations accordingly. In the face of a great attack it is not only impossible, but quite unsound, to attempt.

(Continued on Page Two.)

## ENCOUNTERS REPORTED ON ITALIAN BORDER

Increase in Artillery Fire on Mountain Line—Advance Posts Exchange Fire.

Rome, March 23.—Numerous patrol encounters have occurred along the Italian front, the war office announced today, and there has been some increase in the artillery fire on the mountain line.

The statement reads: "Our advanced posts exchanged lively rifle fire with reconnoitering parties north of Val di Ledro and the Lagarina valley. There were patrol encounters at the small island of Folina and east of Gavazuccherina."

"There were slight artillery actions which grew in intensity at intervals in some portions of the mountainous area. "Our aircraft dropped bombs on railway lines in the Lagarina valley."

### DISSOLVE PARLIAMENT

Elections Ordered for New Rumanian Cabinet.

Amsterdam (Via London), March 23.—Today's official "communiqué" states that because of the delay in the formation of the new Rumanian cabinet the armistice with Rumania has been extended by three days.

A Berlin dispatch on Wednesday announced that the armistice with Rumania had been extended until March 23 at midnight. The foregoing message indicates that the newly extended armistice therefore will expire at midnight of March 23.

Jassy, Rumania, Thursday, March 21.—The newspapers announce that the Rumanian parliament is to be dissolved and that new elections have been ordered.